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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/597,386	06/19/2000	Roel Van Der Tuijn	PENA-15/119	4743

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER

JAGANNATHAN, MELANIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2666

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/597,386

Applicant(s)

TUIJN ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie Jagannathan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2,3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 26 of instant application, "What is claimed is:" should be deleted and inserted on top of page 27 before disclosure of claims as it is required claims start on separate page from rest of specification with the above heading.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Malek et al. US 5,666,366.

Regarding claims 1, 5, 8-20, the claimed communicating between plurality of transmitting and receiving systems using digital streams arranged in multiple access frames is disclosed by time division multiple access communications system with master base station and plurality of slave base stations (Figure 6). See column 2, lines 65-67, column 3, lines 11-22, column 5, lines 31-43. The claimed in a master system, cycling a counter using a clock reference to generate a master count, and using the master count to establish a master frame count and claimed in a slave system, cycling a counter using a

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clock reference to generate a main count, using the main count to establish a main frame count is disclosed by master base station generating master frame pointer and slave base station receiving frame sync pulse from master base station corresponding to beginning of frame period, a bit pointer incremented by a local clock counts bit in frame. See column 7, lines 19-64. The claimed from a difference between master frame count and main frame count of slave system determining a frame count offset value is disclosed by phase comparator detecting if local sync signal generated by slave base station lagged remote sync signal of master base station. The claimed establishing a slave frame count for slave system by adding offset value to main frame count and thereby aligning slave frame count of slave system with master frame count and incrementing slave frame count when main count is incremented and communicating digital streams between master and slave by aligning frames is disclosed by when lag is detected, bit point is incremented by one count or if local sync signal is ahead then bit pointer is decremented thus obtaining frame synchronization between master and slave base stations. See column 7, lines 65-67, column 8, lines 1-17.

Regarding claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-20, the claimed master and slave systems each generate a count with a plurality of bits which define frame boundaries and the step of aligning frames with the clock reference of master system further comprising determining a bit offset between master system frame boundary and slave system frame boundary and adjusting slave system frame boundary with bit offset is disclosed by when lag is detected between remote sync signal and local sync signal, bit pointer is incremented by one count to indicate to the slot pointer that first slot of new frame is to begin.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sayers et al. US 6,542,754 disclose synchronizing clock signals in wireless networks.

Haartsen US 6,574,266 discloses base station assisted terminal-to-terminal connection setup.

Hendrickson US 6,275,519 discloses frame synchronization in a digital communications system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Jagannathan whose telephone number is 703-305-8078. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 703-308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Melanie Jagannathan
Patent Examiner
AU 2666

MJ



FRANK DUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER